John Edgar Hoover

Director

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Washington, D.C.

***December 7, 1941***

*MEMORANDUM*

The following steps have been affected by the FBI:

1. The entire service has been put on a 24-hour basis, with all 54 offices of the Bureau open for 24-hour work.
2. All annual leave has been cancelled of all employees throughout the FBI.
3. Protective guards have been established at the Japanese Embassy and at all Japanese Consulates throughout the country. In order to effect this, the field offices of the FBI have requested the assistance of the local authorities and State Police in handling this matter.
4. The short wave radio station *KORI* at Belmont, California, has been placed under guard. This is the station which broadcasts short wave messages from the United States to Japan, and at the request of Captain James Roosevelt I have made the necessary arrangements for the protection of this station.
5. Instructions have been issued to all air lines to decline to carry any Japanese aboard any of the commercial air lines until further advice from the FBI.
6. Instructions have been issued to all air lines to refuse to carry any air express either from or to any Japanese. The precautions taken in this matter and the one preceding were in an effort to prevent the consummation of any sabotage by any air traveller or through any air express packages which might be shipped.
7. Instructions have also been sent to all field offices of the FBI to contact immediately all industrial concerns having war contracts and instructing them to be on the alert for any acts of espionage or sabotage or interference with production of war materials.
8. Instructions have been issued to stop all press service to China and Japan.
9. Instructions have been issued to stop all overseas telephone communications in or out of the United States or any country.
10. Instructions have been issued to prevent the departure of any Japanese from the District of Columbia.

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1. Instructions have been issued to all telephone companies to stop all communications by Japanese to any point outside of the continental United States, this to include communications, whether by Japanese diplomatic officials or civilians. The same prohibition applies to Japanese communications by telegram, cablegram or radio, except that in the latter categories messages filed by members of the Japanese Embassy or Japanese Consulates may be transmitted if the official filing the message files it as an official communication relating to official business.
2. Instructions have now been issued to take into custody all Japanese who have been recommended by the FBI to the Departmental attorneys for custodial detention. The procedure that has been followed up to the present time under the plans that had been approved was to classify in various classifications, such as A, B, and C, various grades of potential Japanese alien enemies, some of whom were to be considered as extremely dangerous and who would of course be taken into custody immediately upon the declaration of war. This had totaled only 14 and the balance had been classified by the Departmental attorneys in various other groups, ranging from those not quite so dangerous to those who it was considered should be kept only under surveillance. The total numbers of those who had been recommended by the FBI for custodial detention approximates 770, including those living in the Hawaiian Islands.

All offices of the FBI have been instructed not only to take the 770 potential Japanese alien enemies into custody, but also to wire Washington headquarters the names of any others who might be considered as being dangerous to the national security. In line with Departmental instruction, when these names are received, they will be transmitted to the Departmental attorneys and when the Bureau has been advised as to what the Departmental attorneys desire to do with these persons, the Bureau will then be in a position to take whatever action the Department directs.

1. The radio stations of the FBI have been put on a 24-hours basis. These stations make possible direct communication from the Washington headquarters to Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. This makes possible the independence of communication with these three strategic offices and non-dependence upon commercial and military or naval lines of communication, which are at this time greatly overloaded.

**Primary Source Reading Questions:**

1. Who do you think this FBI memo was sent to? Why do you think that?
2. What is the purpose of this memo? Explain using an example.
3. Pick two steps that – if an attack similar to Pearl Harbor happened today – you feel the Federal Government would still implement (replacing references to the Japanese, of course). Why?
4. Pick two steps that – if an attack similar to Pearl Harbor happened today – you feel the Federal Government would NOT implement? Why?
5. Develop two new emergency steps that you feel the government would need to implement in the aftermath of attack to protect the homeland. (You might want to modify existing ones listed in the document)



